



Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision

Frequently Asked Questions

To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The U.S. Forest Service manages the 3.1 million acre Custer Gallatin National Forest.

What is a Forest Plan?

A Forest Plan is the comprehensive overarching document that guides forest management, use and protection providing broad direction, standards and guidelines for the Custer Gallatin National Forest for years to come.

- Aims to balance multiple-uses and the restoration and maintenance of forest and water ecosystems
- Identifies areas that may be suitable for special designations such as research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness
- The Forest Plan does not authorize site specific activities or prohibitions

Where does the Forest Plan Apply?

The Forest Plan management direction applies on National Forest System lands within the boundaries of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

How does the Forest Plan Revision process work?

In January 2016 the Forest will kickoff the Assessment Phase. A second phase, developing the plan will follow in the fall.

Forest Plan Revision efforts are designed to encompass a 4-year process. Several public engagement opportunities will exist throughout the timeline.

Why does the Forest Plan matter?

Custer Gallatin National Forest is a vast landscape and one of the most visited National Forests in Montana and the Nation. It provides a backyard to 350,000 people, where we work, live and play.

What is developed will inform forest management for years to come and will directly affect ecological sustainability and influence economic and social sustainability.



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Why Now?

Forest plans are to be revised every 15 years, Custer and Gallatin Forest plans were published in 1986 and 1987 respectively. Although Forest plans are adaptable over time, much has changed. The two existing plans will be revised into one comprehensive plan developed under the 2012 Planning Rule.

What is the new 2012 Planning Rule?

Nationally, the U.S. Forest Service adopted direction for revising Forest Plans including:

- Enhanced commitment to collaboration and public engagement,
- Adaptability to changing conditions over time
- A balance of multiple-uses and the restoration and maintenance of forest and water ecosystems
- Defined process to identify areas that may be suitable for designations such as research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness
- As part of the Forest Plan process, the plan considers the goals, uses and resources of surrounding lands and communities: “all lands” perspective that looks at how the forest fits into the greater landscape.

Forest Plan Revision Fast Facts

The Custer Gallatin National Forest recently consolidated in August 2014.

Both former forest plans were developed under the 1982 Rule and we currently have two plans for one consolidated Forest.

- ❖ Custer Plan published in 1986 (34 amendments)
- ❖ Gallatin Plan published in 1987 (49 amendments)

Looking Ahead:

One Plan will be published for the Custer Gallatin National Forest providing broad direction for the coming decades.

Be Involved:

Engage early and build on sessions,
Opt – in for email updates.

Web:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning>

